Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Telephone Exchanges
9.	Almora	2
10.	Bageshwar	-
11.	Champawat	2
12.	Pithoragarh	2
13.	Dehradun	3
	TOTAL :	22

Call rates of Reliance WLL mobile services

†952. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether call rates of WLL mobile services of Reliance are quite low *vis-a-vis* call rates of other cellular phones; and

(b) the details in terms of percentage to the extent these charges are less?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) It is extremely difficult to compare the call rate of WLL mobile services with that of cellular mobile services because of the large number of tariff packages offered by cellular operators. Moreover, there is no uniform rate of call charges either in WLL (M) or cellular service across all the different packages. The call charges also vary from circle to circle and from operator to operator. Depending upon his usage pattern, the subscriber chooses from among the alternative packages offered by the operators.

Village Public Telephones

953. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a consistent shortfall in achievement of the targets for Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in negative, the State and Union Territory-wise targets of VPTs during the last five years, year-wise and the status of achievement thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) there has been some shortfall in achieving the yearly targets primarily due to non-availability of proven technology for provision of telephone facility in remote and inaccessible areas and delay in permission to install Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment in North-East and Jammu & Kashmir due to security reasons.

(c) Circle-wise VPT target and achievement of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the last five years is given in the Statement-I and in respect of private operators is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). There has been no separate target for Union Territory as it is part of the circle.

(d) Following remedial measures have been taken in this regard:-

(1) Universal Service Obligation Fund has been created to provide support to BSNL and other private operators for rural telephony and VPT programme.

(2) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology which is proven technology has been used to provide VPTs.

(3) MARR based VPTs are replaced with WLL technology.

(4) Villages in remote and inaccessible area have been planned to be provided with VPTs using satellite media.

Statement -I

Circle-wise VPTs targets and achievements for last five years

Sl. No.	Circles	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	53	56	63	55	8	8	0	0	4	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	400	526	0	15	0	4	0	18	0	0
3.	Assam	2900	2907	3000	826	5000	336	4135	2501	1000	1007
4.	Bihar	6000	2137	6000	4602	24651	2276	17829	15612	9061	9061
5.	Jharkhand							9840	9980	9645	9197
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	20	0	26	0	4	4	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1000	1208	2500	2577	4000	4002	4948	4507	205	205
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1000	763	1500	448	2000	229	842	50	100	177
10.	Karnataka	2500	2521	2000	2455	1265	1255	10	4	6	6
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4000	3707	5000	3546	5860	1527	315	312	3	0
13.	Chhattisgarh							2980	3677	216	248
14.	Maharashtra	2700	2472	0	165	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	North-East-I	1000	404	2000	303	5110	309	1547	368	904	389
16.	North-East-II							761	147	200	135
17.	Orissa	2400	2242	3000	2102	14000	2037	12850	10392	5714	5078
18.	Punjab	345	173	0	39	0	564	0	0	0	0
19.	Rajasthan	2540	2585	0	548	0	98	0	33	0	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	142	196	0	11	55	53	1	1	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	7500	8219	7000	8303	18000	14643	10085	8179	6793	6651
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	5500	2937	6000	4440	9000	3167	2239	2402	0	0
23.	Uttaranchal							2268	2162	1463	1627
24.	West Bengal	5000	4005	5000	3530	11000	3805	13200	10357	4125	3147
25.	Calcutta	0	0	47	0	47	0	53	53	0	0
26.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	45000	37058	45136	33965	10000	34317	83903	70755	39439	36929